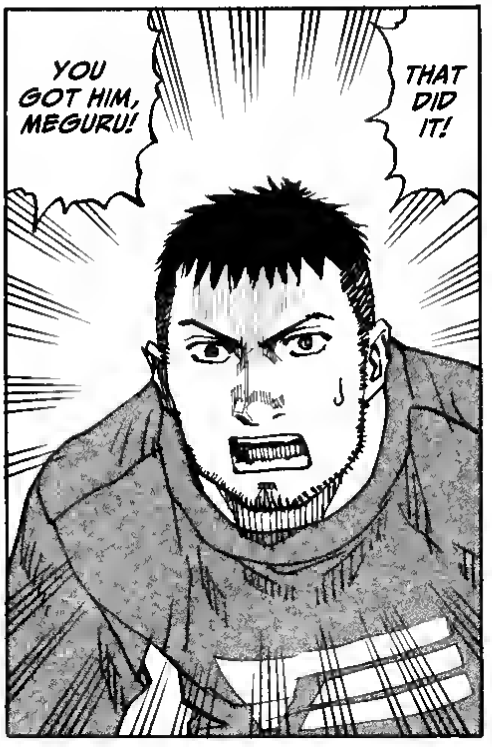
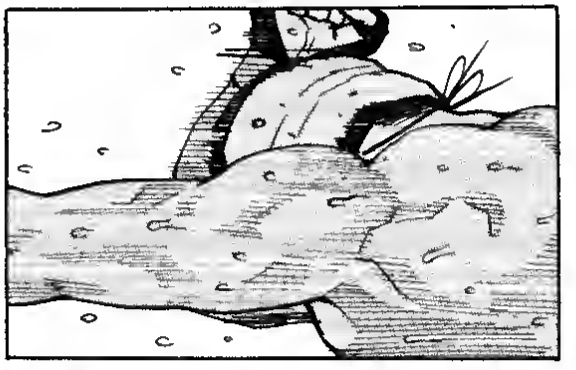
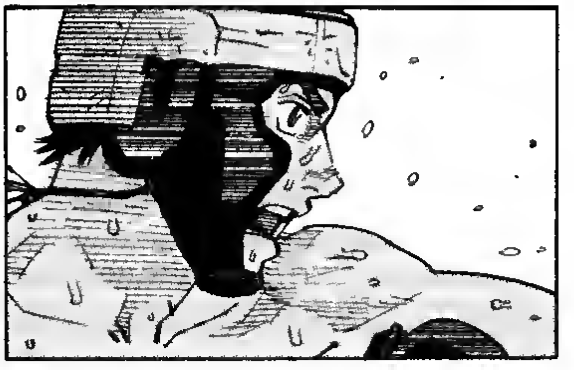
Chapter 53 | Semi-finals: Meguru vs. Kagaya (Part 6)

CAN I GET HIM IN THE FACE AGAIN...
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
...OR NOT ?!


YOU GOT HIM, MEGURU!
THAT DID IT!





GO GET HIM! FINISH THIS!
ONE MINUTE LEFT!
I CAN TAKE HIM DOWN!
gasp
IT WORKED... IT WORKED...
I'VE GOTTA MOVE...
GASP
I'VE GOTTA MOVE...

gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
...CAN'T I TAKE A STEP FORWARD ?!
SO WHY...

IGNORE HIS FEINTS!
GET IN THERE!
JOLT
クニ
HIS GAS TANK IS EMPTY, YOU MEAN?
HIS STAMINA MUST'VE TOTALLY GIVEN OUT.
THIS IS MEGURU'S CHANCE, BUT HE'S NOT MOVING...
SHOOTO
...SO HE KNOWS HOW TO GIVE HIMSELF TIME TO RECOVER VIA FEINTS.
KAGAYA'S GOT A LOT OF EXPERI-ENCE...

HE'S ...
... SCARED!
ビル
ゴル
MEGURU! YOU DON'T NEED KICKS!
JUST GET IN THERE WITH A ONE-TWO PUNCH!
BUT HE'S OBVIOUSLY COM-PLETELY GASSED...
THIS IS HIS CHANCE ...
TAKE IT EASY ON YOUR INJURED SIDE, THERE... SHEESH!
OW-OW-OW!

...
I'M AMAZED HE'S MANAGED TO LAST THIS LONG...
THAT KID GOT IN AS A REPLACE-MENT, DIDN'T HE?
THAT GAVE ME TIME...
THANK GOD HE GASSED OUT...
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
...TO RECHARGE!

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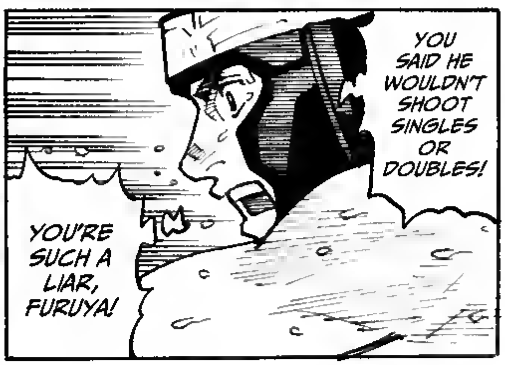
A DOUBLE LEG TAKE-DOWN ?!

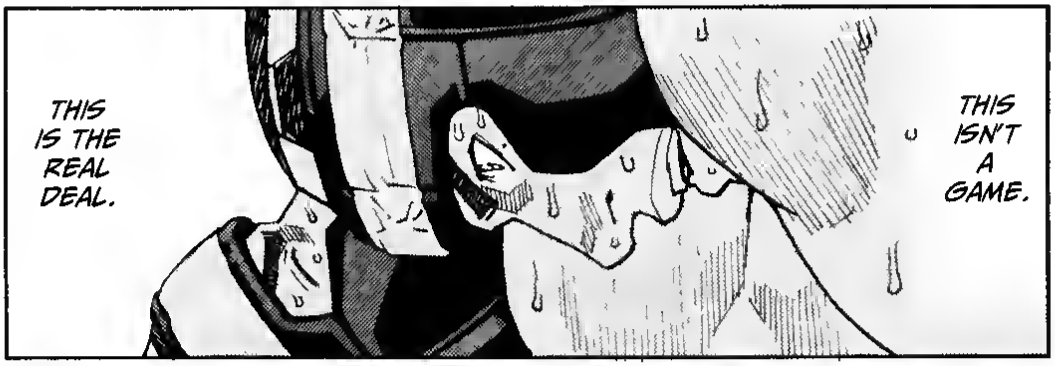

YOU SAID HE WOULDN'T SHOOT SINGLES OR DOUBLES!
YOU'RE SUCH A LIAR, FURUYA!

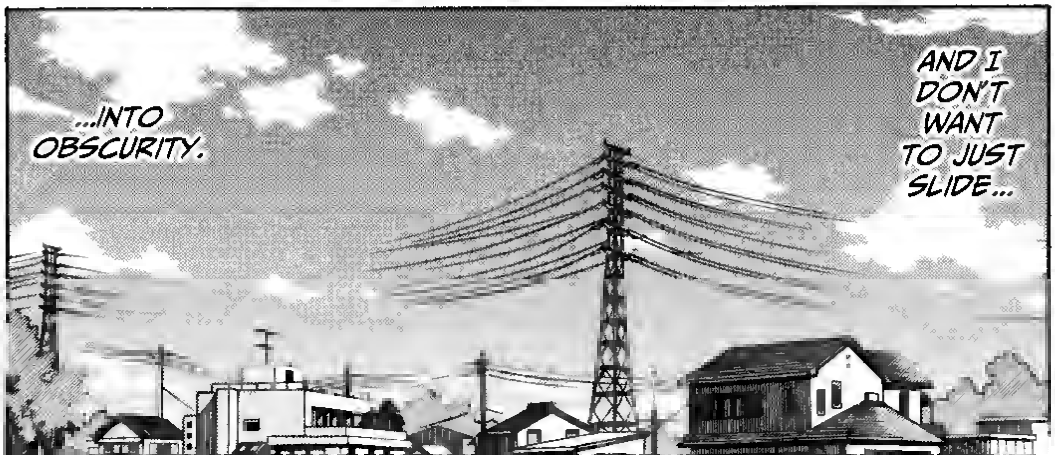
...BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID OF THE CLINCH.
HE DOUBLE-LEGGED MEGURU...
!
IT WAS LAST YEAR...
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN ...
... BETWEEN YOU AND THAT GUY KAGAYA?

IT WAS RIGHT BEFORE A COMPETITION, TOO...
HE INJURED ANOTHER GIRL DURING TRAINING.
HE ALWAYS SAID...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
HMM...
BUT...
...AND HE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER GYM.
THINGS CHANGED AFTER THAT...
SO BASICALLY YOU'RE SAYING HE'S THE SORT OF GUY WHO DOESN'T GO EASY ON A GIRL, RIGHT?
THIS IS MMA. INJURIES COME WITH THE TERRITORY...

BUT PRACTICE ISN'T A MATCH.
I KNOW. BUT FOR HIM THERE'S NO DIFFER-ENCE...
"IF THEY DON'T TAP DURING A MATCH...
"...I'LL BREAK 'EM!"
...

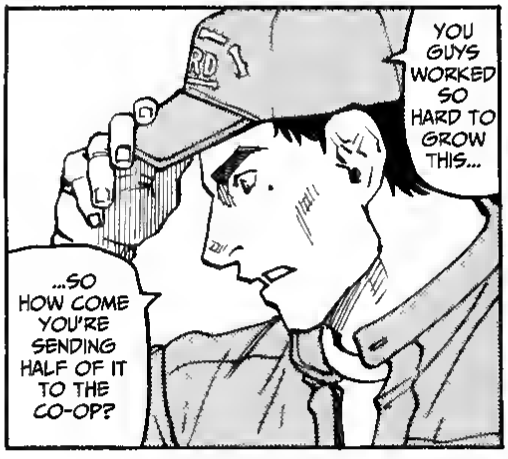
HALF GUARD !


THIS IS THE REAL DEAL.
THIS ISN'T A GAME.


...INTO OBSCURITY.
AND I DON'T WANT TO JUST SLIDE...

I CAN'T SEE "THE FUTURE."
NOT FROM "HERE."

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HOME?
HOW COULD YOU JUST DROP OUT?
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW HARD WE WORKED TO SEND YOU TO COLLEGE IN TOKYO?

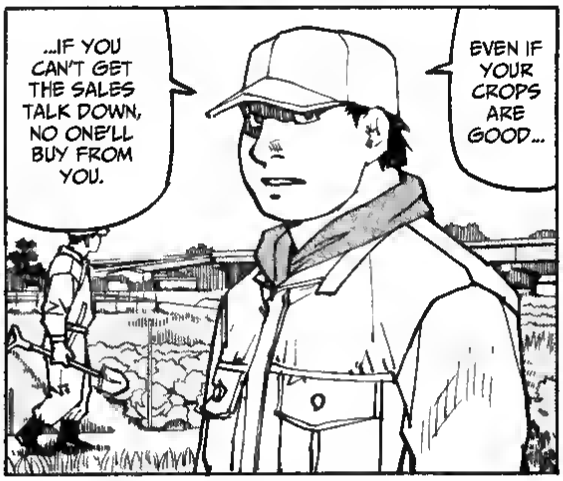

YOU GUYS WORKED SO HARD TO GROW THIS...
...SO HOW COME YOU'RE SENDING HALF OF IT TO THE CO-OP?

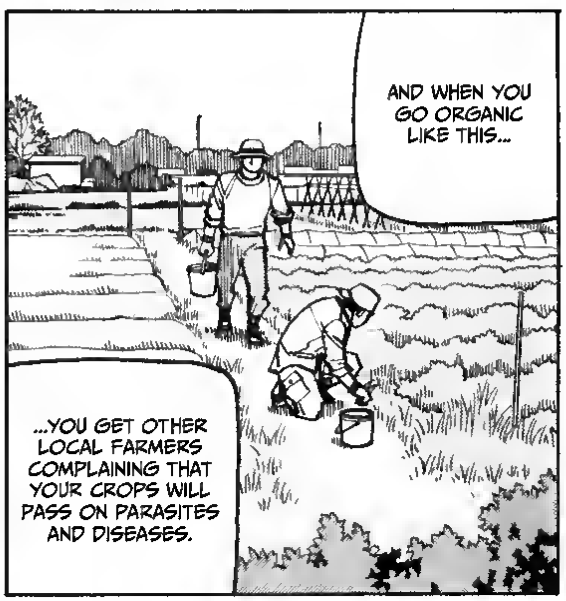
IT'S JUST ONE...
...OF OUR OBLIGA-TIONS.

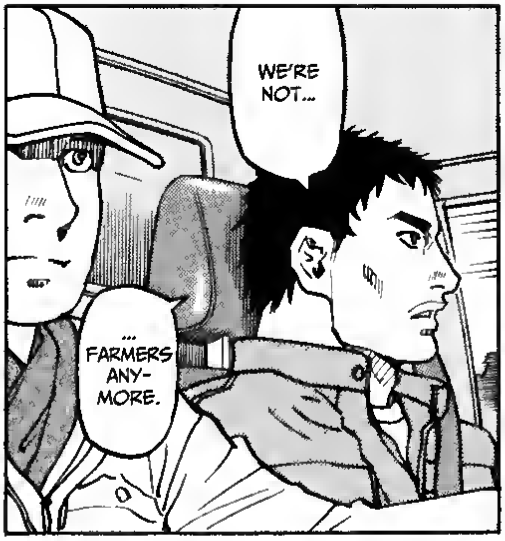
HEY, HIGUCHI.
THANKS FOR THE HELP, KAGAYA.

I'VE HEARD SOME FARMERS REALLY MAKE A LOT OF MONEY.
THEY SELL DIRECTLY TO HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS IN TOKYO AND STUFF LIKE THAT.
HAHA ...
THAT ONLY WORKS IF YOU'RE A GOOD SALESMAN.

BUT IN TOKYO THEY ALL WANT STUFF THAT'S PESTICIDE-FREE.
NOBODY CARES ABOUT ANYONE BUT THEM-SELVES.


EVEN IF YOUR CROPS ARE GOOD...
...IF YOU CAN'T GET THE SALES TALK DOWN, NO ONE'LL BUY FROM YOU.

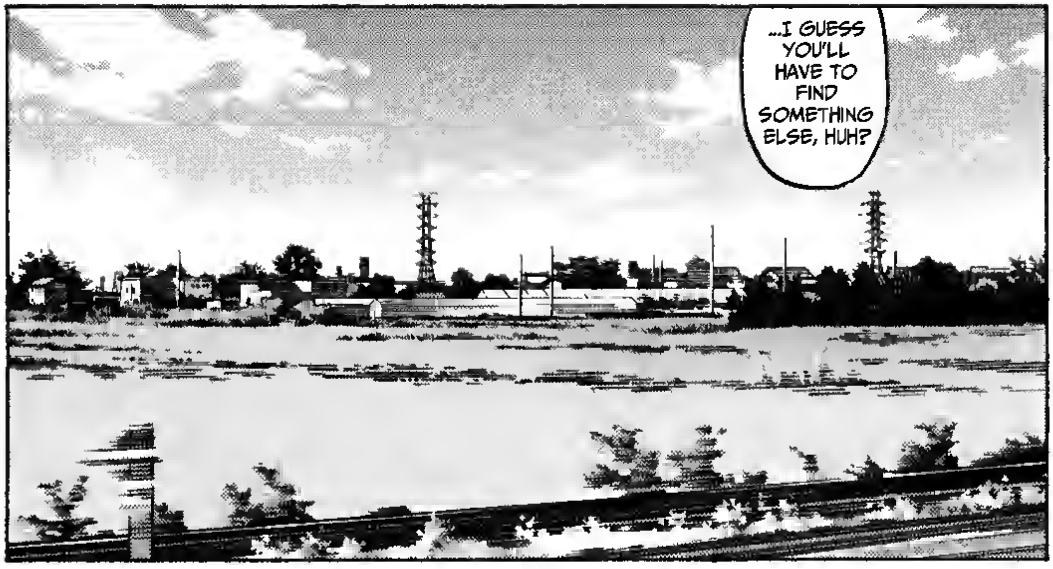

AND WHEN YOU GO ORGANIC LIKE THIS...
...YOU GET OTHER LOCAL FARMERS COMPLAINING THAT YOUR CROPS WILL PASS ON PARASITES AND DISEASES.

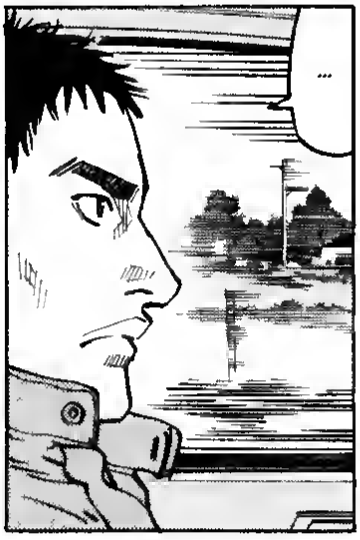

WE'RE NOT...
... FARMERS ANY-MORE.

I KNOW YOU QUIT COLLEGE ...
...BUT ARE YOU GONNA TAKE OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS ?

...IS NOW RESIDENTIAL AND COM-MERCIAL DISTRICTS.
MOST OF OUR LAND...
MY OLD MAN WORKS FIVE DAYS A WEEK AT A FACTORY...

OH YEAH?
THEN...



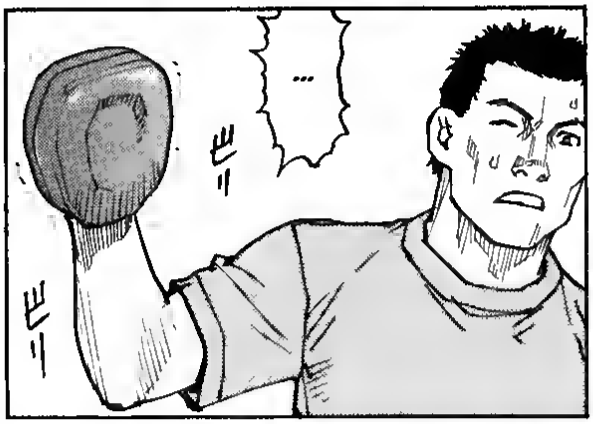


*A JUDO TOURNAMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
...
THERE'S NO POINT...
...IN DWELLING ON WHAT DIDN'T HAPPEN, IS THERE?

Chapter 54 | Fighting Man

WHAT ABOUT STRIKING?
NO EXPERIENCE THERE.
YOU DID JUDO?
YEAH.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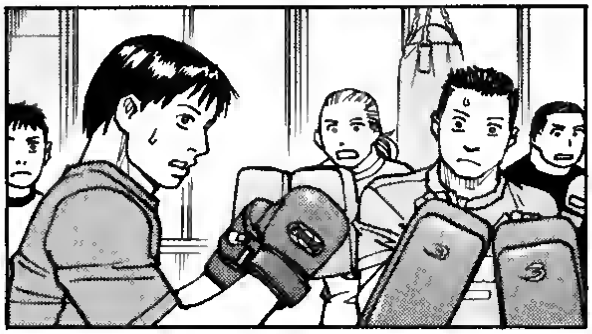
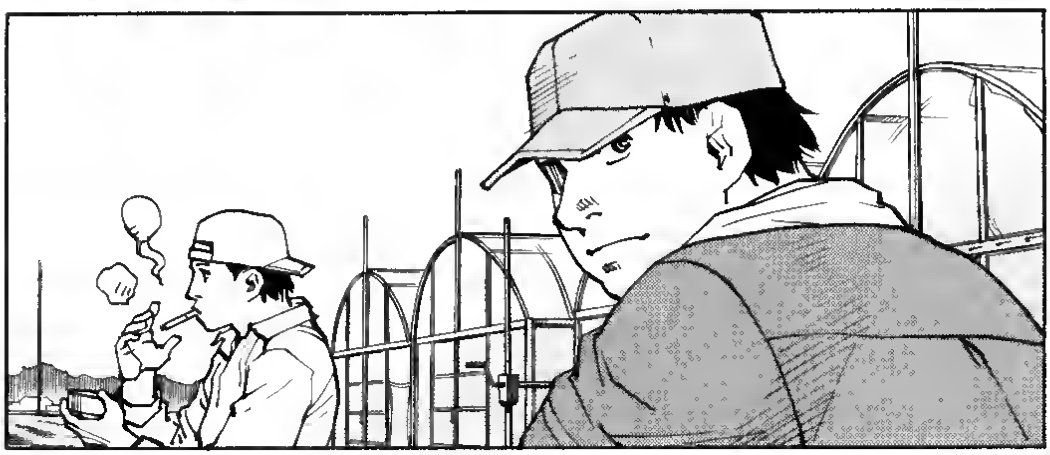


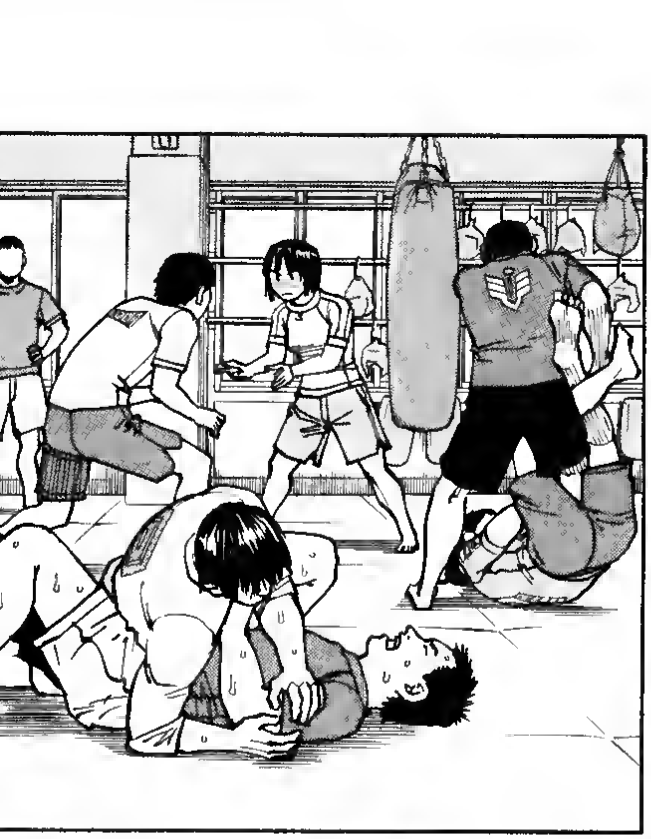
SHOOTO ?
YEAH.
MIXED MARTIAL ARTS.

NAH, I'M A SOCCER MAN.
YOU EVER DONE JIU-JITSU, CARLOS?
THEY CALL IT *VALE TUDO* IN PORTUGUESE, RIGHT?



I THOUGHT IT WAS SAKA-HASHI?
LIVING WITH SOME GUY IN AKABANE.
WHAT-EVER!
BY THE WAY, KAGAYA ...
HOW'S YOUR SISTER DOIN'?
WELL, IT AIN'T LIKE SHE'S COMING BACK.
DUDE, DON'T YOU EVEN TALK TO HER ANYMORE?
POINT IS, I HAVEN'T HEARD ZILCH FROM HER SINCE SHE MOVED TO TOKYO.
STILL HARD-HEADED AS ALWAYS, I SEE.
Have some ginkgo nuts!
OK, OK!
IT WAS HER OWN DAMN FAULT FOR--
SORRY FOR BRINGING IT UP!
WHAT ABOUT THAT ONE, Y'KNOW ...
SPEAKING OF GIRLS...
HOW'D THINGS GO WITH HER?

HOW NICE OF YOU, HIGUCHI!
SHE WAS A GOOD CATCH, THOUGH.
...
BUT THIS GUY'S ALL-OR-NOTHING ATTITUDE WOULD SEND ME RUNNING, TOO!
YEAH, YOU'VE GOTTA DO WHAT'S BEST FOR YOURSELF.
BUT YOU CAN'T HOLD ON TO THAT FOREVER!
MAYBE GET OUT AND MEET SOMEONE NEW?
ANYWAY ...
WHO'D WANT TO COME HERE?



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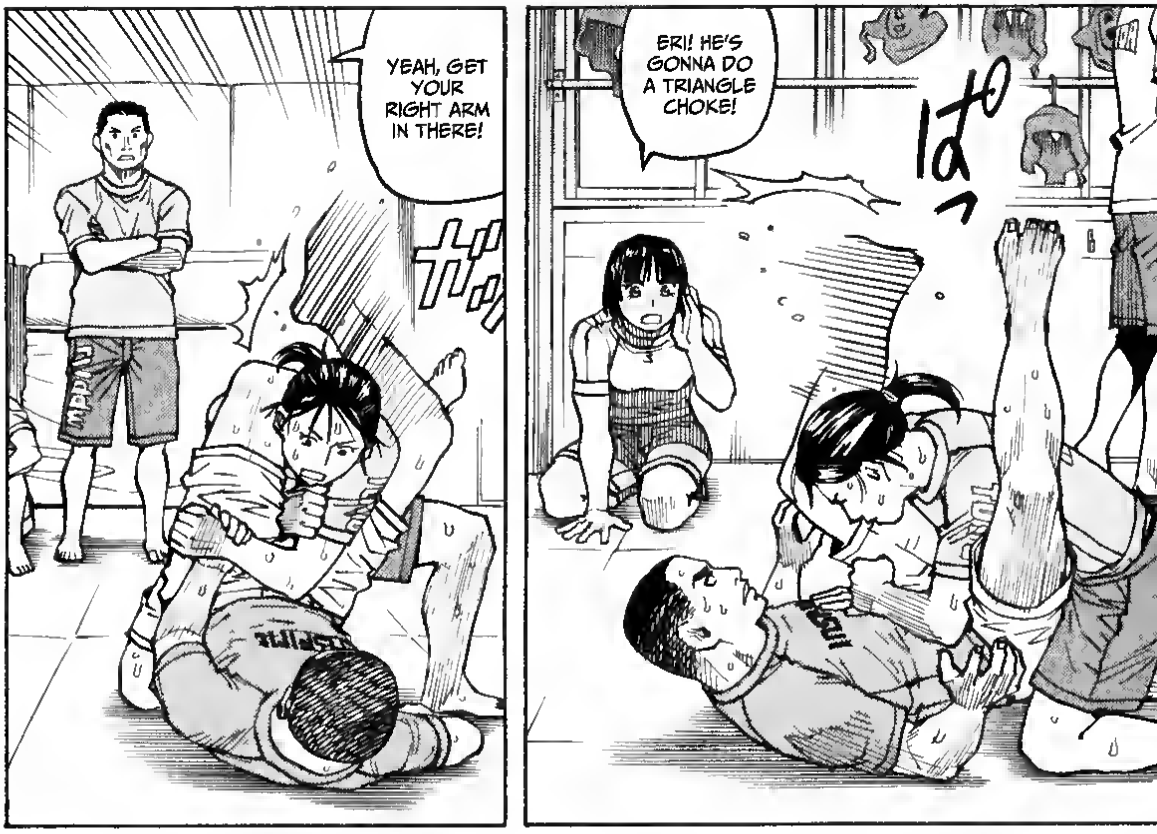
THINK IT THROUGH !
DON'T OVERPOWER HER, PLEASE!
I KNOW ...

MY TURN NEXT!
!
SURE ...


YEAH, GET YOUR RIGHT ARM IN THERE!
ERI! HE'S GONNA DO A TRIANGLE CHOKE!
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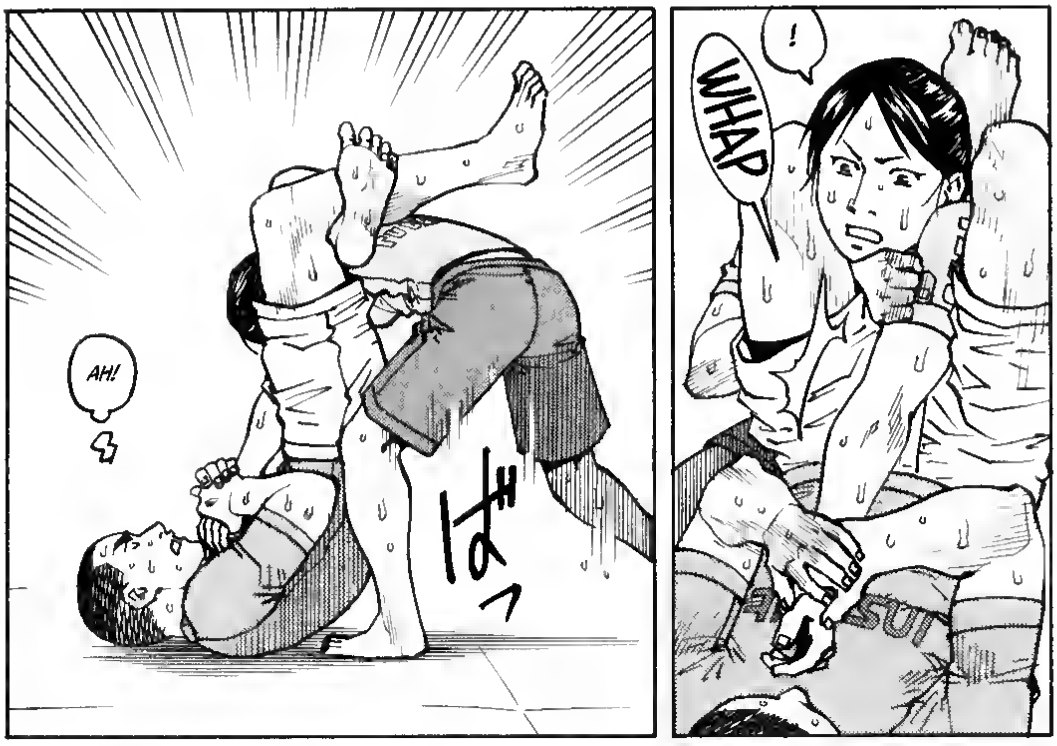
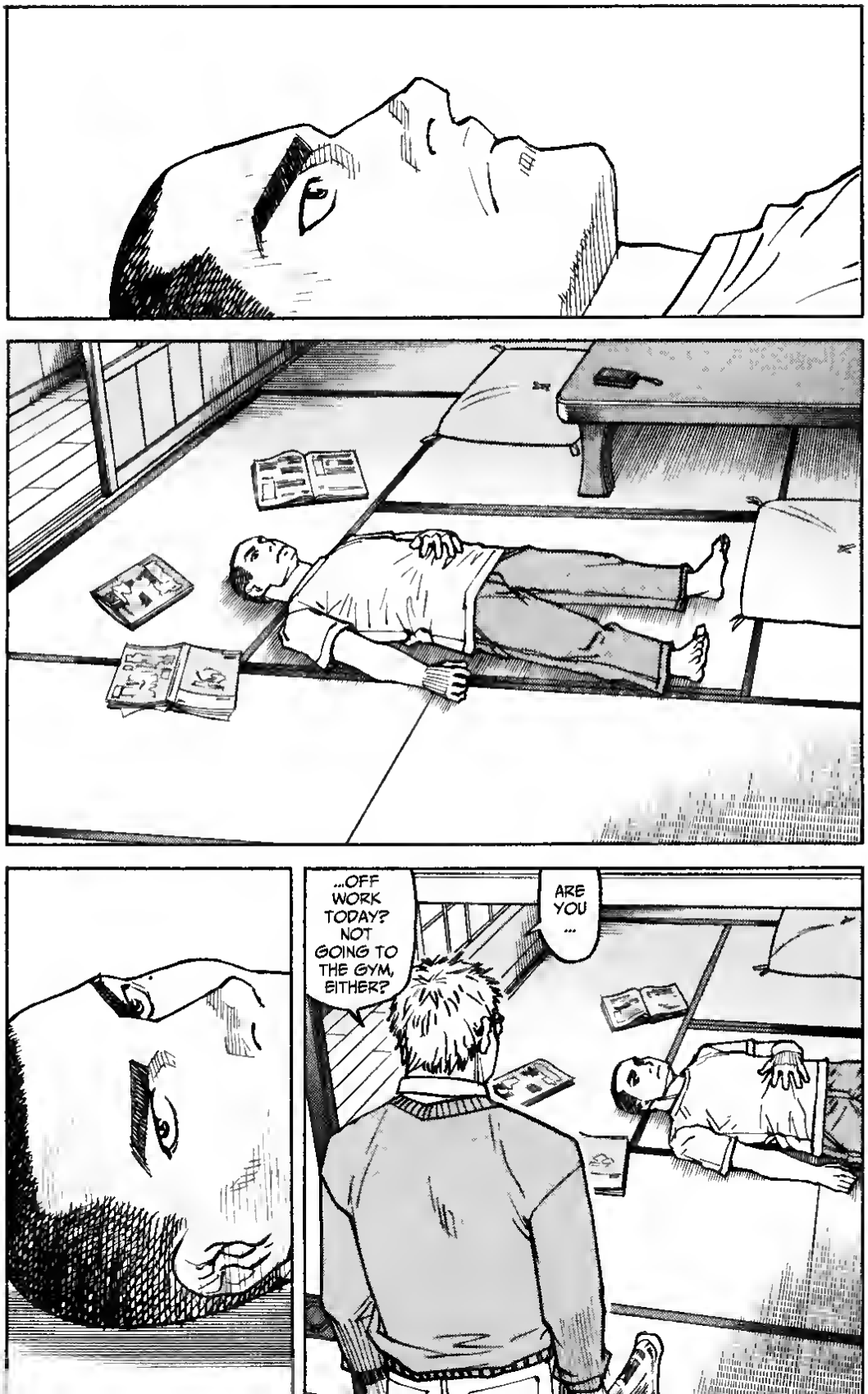
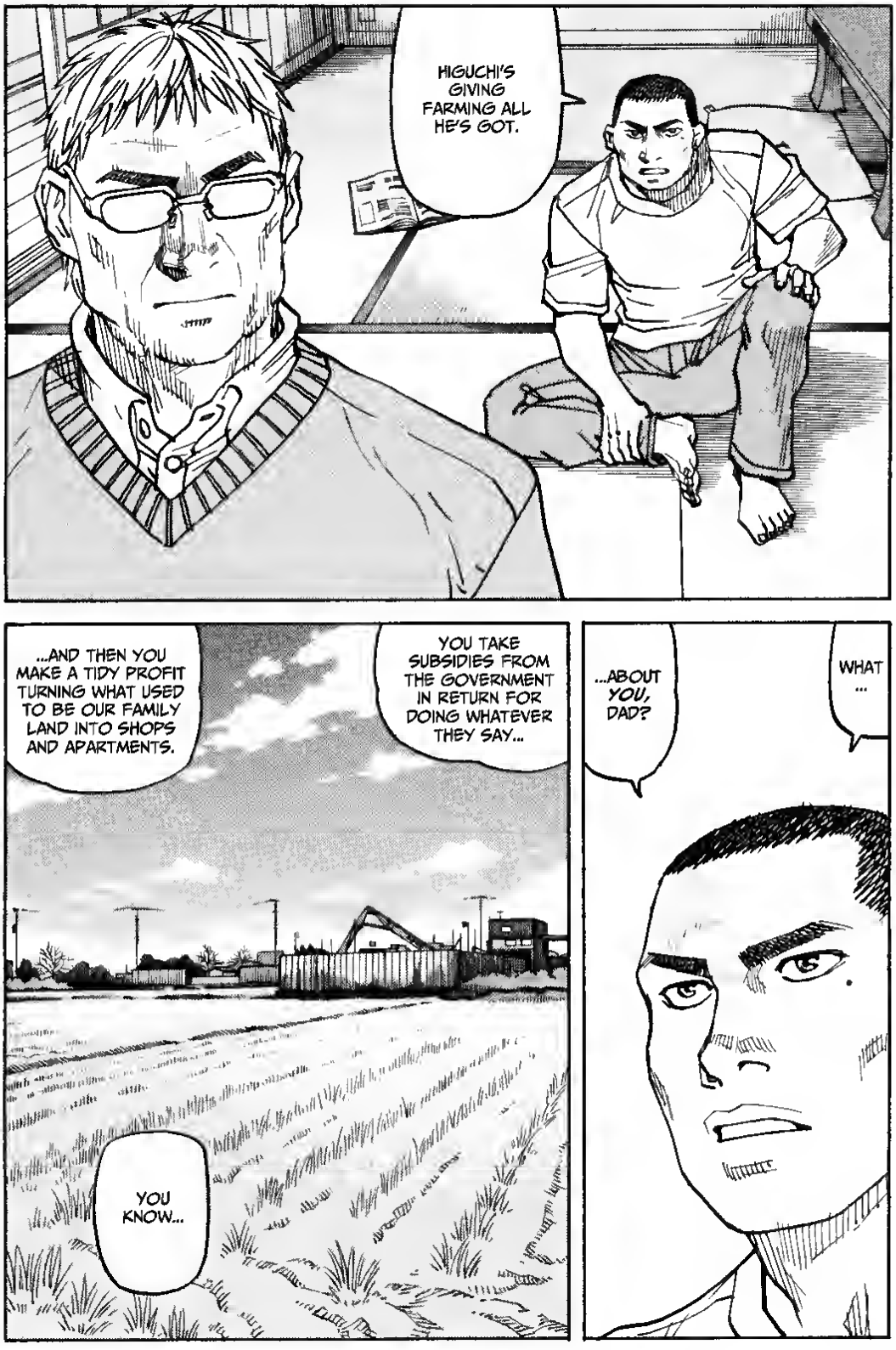

AH!
ばっ
!
WHAP

!
!
CRACK
!

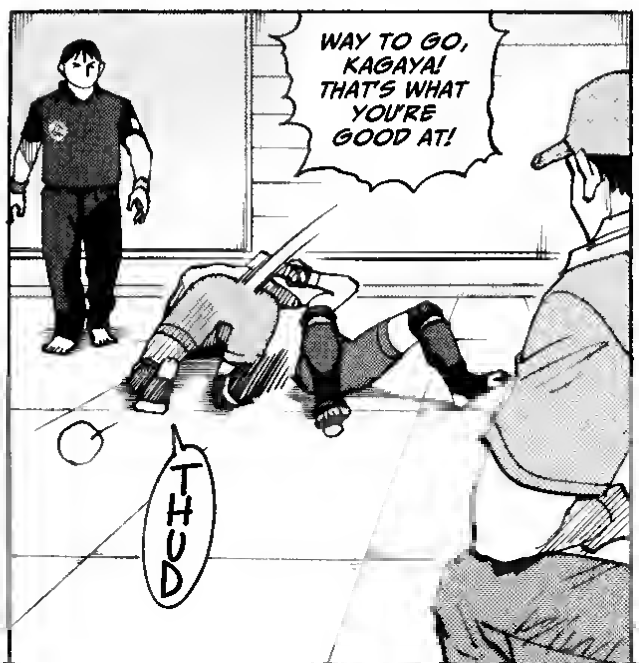

...OFF WORK TODAY? NOT GOING TO THE GYM, EITHER?
ARE YOU ...

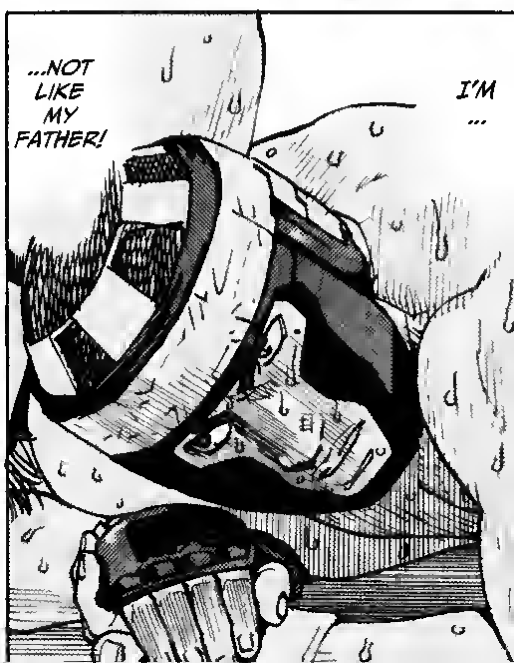
THOSE GUYS ARE TROUBLE-MAKERS.
...YOU'VE BEEN HELPING OUT THE HIGUCHIS' SON WITH HIS FARM.
I HEARD ...
STAY AWAY FROM THEM.


HIGUCHI'S GIVING FARMING ALL HE'S GOT.
...AND THEN YOU MAKE A TIDY PROFIT TURNING WHAT USED TO BE OUR FAMILY LAND INTO SHOPS AND APARTMENTS.
YOU TAKE SUBSIDIES FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN RETURN FOR DOING WHATEVER THEY SAY...
YOU KNOW...
...ABOUT YOU, DAD?
WHAT ...

YOU CALL YOURSELF A FARMER ...
...BUT YOU TURNED YOUR BACK ON FARMING.
TAKE-SHI...
...
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA...
...HOW MUCH IT *COST* TO SEND YOU TO COLLEGE IN TOKYO?

MEGURU, HE'S TRYING TO LOCK AN ARM TRIANGLE!
KEEP YOUR ARMS IN TIGHT AND USE YOUR ELBOW!


WAY TO GO, KAGAYA! THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE GOOD AT!
THUD

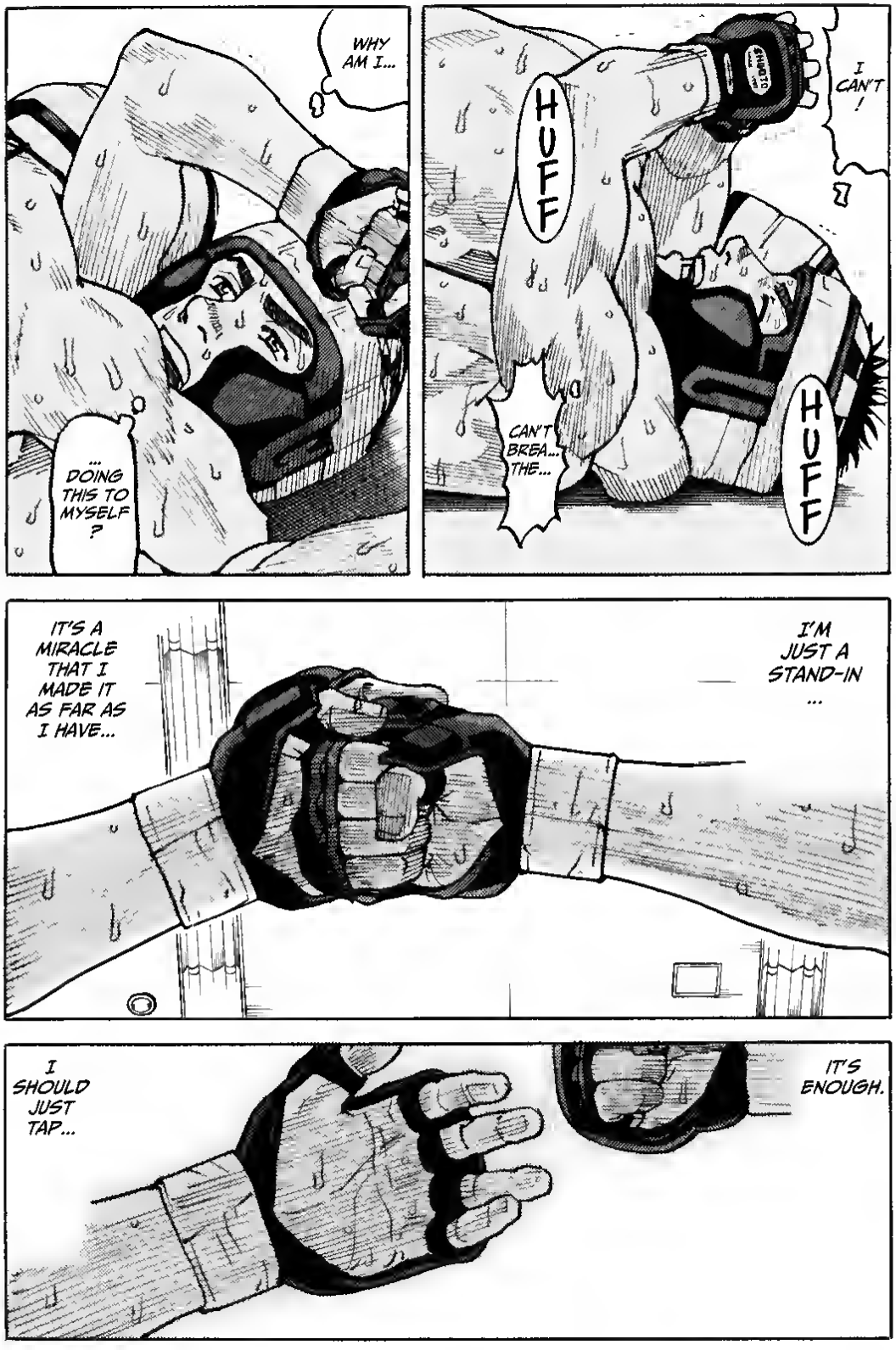

...NOT LIKE MY FATHER!
I'M ...

I WILL FIGHT!

...

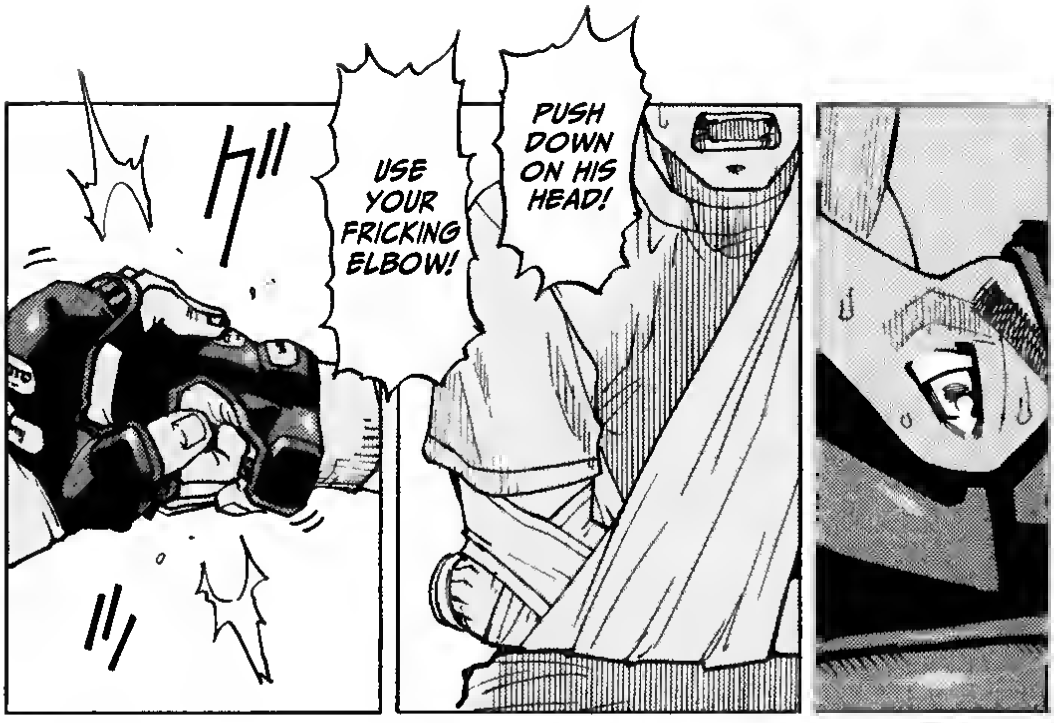
SIDE CON-TROL!
CATCH!

GET YOUR LEGS UP AND TWIST TO YOUR RIGHT!
MEGURU, YOU'VE GOTTA CREATE SOME SPACE!

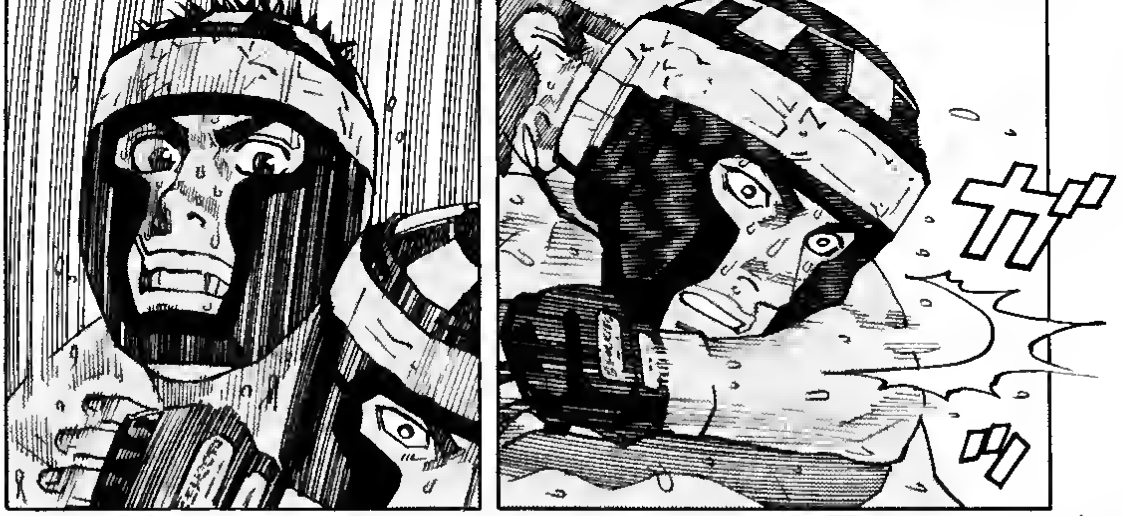

WHY AM I...
... DOING THIS TO MYSELF ?
HUFF
I CAN'T !
CAN'T BREA... THE...
HUFF
IT'S A MIRACLE THAT I MADE IT AS FAR AS I HAVE...
I'M JUST A STAND-IN ...
I SHOULD JUST TAP...
IT'S ENOUGH.

YOU IDIOT!
!
DON'T GIVE UP NOW!

YOU'VE ESCAPED AN ARM TRIANGLE A MILLION TIMES WITH ME!
SHOW HIM YOUR GUTS, GOD-DAMNIT!


USE YOUR FRICKING ELBOW!
PUSH DOWN ON HIS HEAD!

HRAH
!
!!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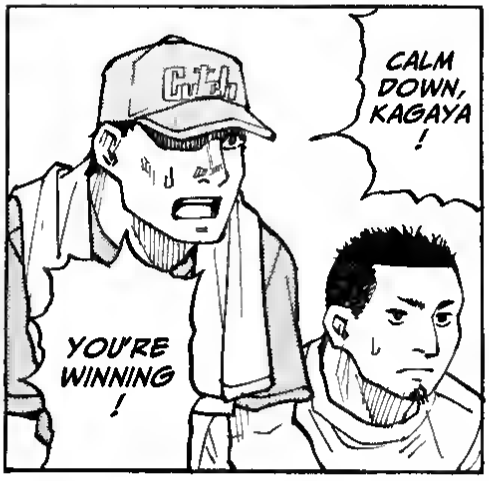
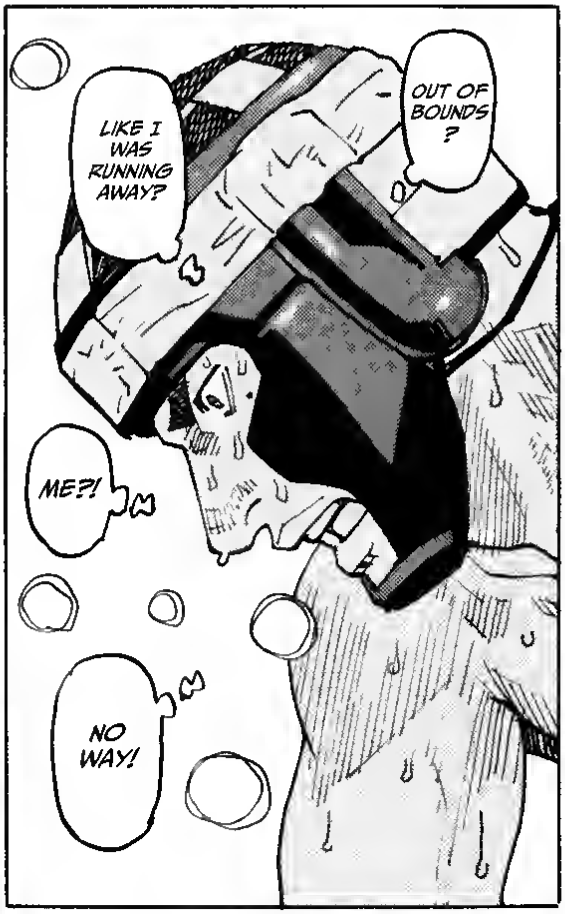
DON'T STRAIN YOUR INJURED SIDE.
EVEN IF YOU'RE TOTALLY WIPED OUT, YOU CAN STILL REAR-NAKED CHOKE HIM, CAN'T YOU?!
HOOK HIS LEG!
HIS LEG!

HNGG
...
BREAK
!
TIME
OUT!

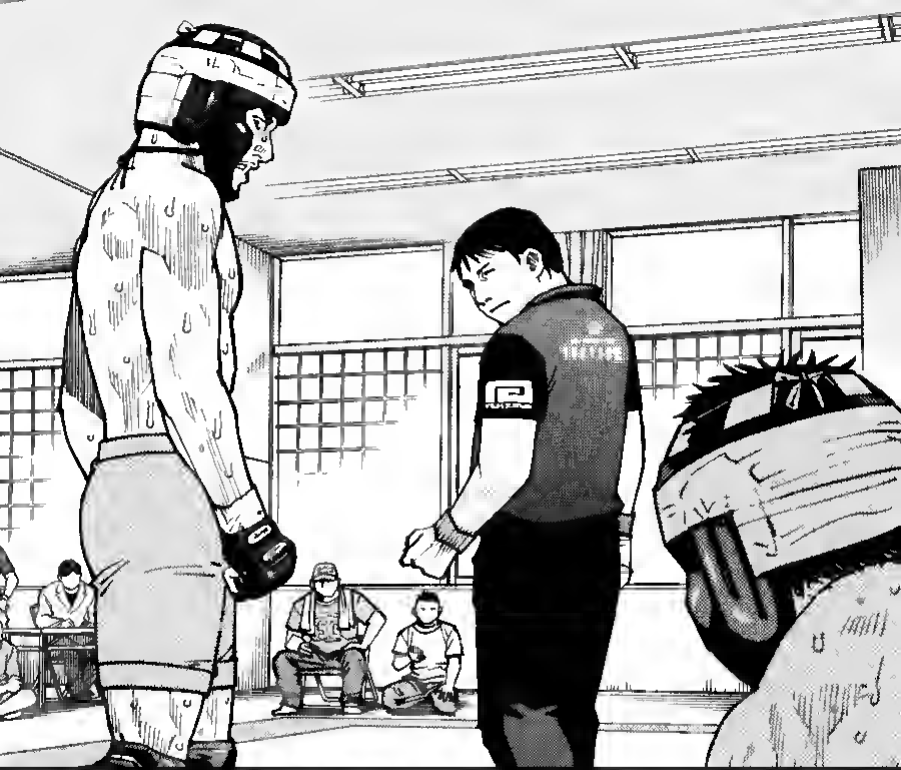
...
BLUE !
MINUS ONE POINT FOR GOING OUT OF BOUNDS!


CALM DOWN, KAGAYA !
YOU'RE WINNING !


OUT OF BOUNDS ?
LIKE I WAS RUNNING AWAY?
ME?!
NO WAY!

HOW MUCH TIME'S LEFT?
24 SECONDS ...

GET IN THE RING!
RESUME THE FIGHT IN STANDING POSITION!
...THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT HE CAN DO...
AT THIS POINT...
gasp
LOOK AT HIM ...!



Read the next chapter of

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ALL ROUNDER MEGURU

オールラウンダー廻（メグル）